

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT NO. TOPIC Military Information from Bad Freienwalde

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 20 January 1954

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 1

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

SOURCE

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1. Between 17 and 29 December 1953, the Panzer Kaserne in Bad Freienwalde was occupied by about 1,200 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with tank, artillery or radio insignia. Up to 200 soldiers in groups of about 30 men were repeatedly seen engaged in infantry field training in the Bralitz-Freienwalde area. Close-order drill and firing practice were observed in the barracks yard. At about 11:30 a.m. on 25 and 26 December, 2 T-34/85 tanks, 1 BA-64 armored scout car, 8 sidecar motorcycles occupied by 3 men each equipped with machine guns, 2 half-track vehicles mounting twin-barreled AA guns, 2 armored two-axle personnel carriers each occupied by about 15 men and 2 light prime movers were seen moving to the terrain. The unit held exercises in the area of Bad Freienwalde. The vehicles drove along special roads in the woods, with tanks and armored scout cars forming the head. On 25 December, about 60 men with telephone sets moved to the training area where they laid telephone lines. On 27 December, the following materiel was seen at the installation: about 12 to 15 tanks, presumably of type T-34/85, 4 x 76.2-mm field guns of model ZIS-3, 5 AT guns, presumably of 100 mm, 4 x 160-mm mortars, about 60 to 80 trucks, 5 tank trucks and 1 tank truck trailer. Most of the brick garages were closed. Guns and mortars were being cleaned. The tanks were parked in front of the garages. Between 17 and 29 December, 60 soldiers practiced driving with about 10 sidecar motorcycles, and 6 to 8 trucks.

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Comment: Some and other sources made similar observations regarding the occupation of the Panzer Kaserne in mid-December. See In this connection, source of the present report had also mentioned 100-mm AT guns. The sidecar motorcycles and motorcycle driving school are a vague indication that the 95th (?) Mtrcl Bn of the division is also stationed there, as had previously been assumed.

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